

II. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces, without prejudice, all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (New) A wireless communication system for communication between a base station and a plurality of subscriber stations comprising a channel structure for the plurality of subscriber stations to communicate with the base station, the channel structure including:

a plurality of bi-directional dedicated channels; and

a bi-directional user control channel,

wherein a subscriber station, when activated within the communication system, is allocated a portion of the user control channel, but when a dedicated channel is established between the subscriber station and the base station, then the portion of the user control channel allocated to the subscriber station is de-allocated from the subscriber station until the dedicated channel is de-allocated from the subscriber station.

16. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 15, wherein each user control channel transmits data in frames divided into time slots and the portion of the user

control channel allocated to a subscriber station includes a time slot in the frames transmitted over the user control channel.

17. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 16, wherein a time slot allocated to a subscriber station in the frames transmitted over the user control channel is shared between that subscriber station and at least one other subscriber station.

18. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 17, wherein the subscriber stations sharing use of a shared time slot alternately employ the shared time slot in successive frames.

19. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 17, wherein a shared time slot is designated as a random access slot for the subscriber stations sharing it.

20. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 15, wherein power control information is transmitted via the user control channel.

21. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 15, wherein firmware upgrades are transmitted via the user control channel.

22. (New) The wireless communication system of claim 15, wherein the channel structure further includes a broadcast packet data channel and wherein acknowledgements for receipt of a packet from the broadcast packet data channel are transmitted from a receiving subscriber station to the base station via the user control channel.